

Briefly Told

The news from Russia is hard to figure out. One service tells us that the Soviets give Russians choice of fighting or facing a firing squad, and the same day another service tells us of Trotsky calling for volunteers to fight Wrangel.

The Senate may not think the war is over, but the War Department knows it is. Therefore no more service stripes are issued to American forces in Germany, effective August 1.

New Jersey is to pay its prisoners for their work while in jail to give them a fair start when their terms are completed. The experiment is receiving wide publicity and probably will be copied in many states.

Chicago now has a population of 150,000 Negroes. Of this number more than 90,000 arrived from the South since the beginning of the war.

Australia is having a battle with the prickly pear. It was imported some years ago for the sustenance of a bug from which cochineal, a dye ingredient, was made, but rapidly spread beyond control. The rabbit did the same thing in Australia and had to be rounded up.

Cochran County, Texas, on the great "staked plains" has a population of only 67 in its area of 869 square miles, but the great herds of cattle that feed on the plains take care of quite a lot of outside population.

Lord Reading, when a member of the junior bar, once walked boldly through the palace yard at St. Stephen's. "Are you a member?" asked the guard. "No, but I am going to be," came the answer. Twelve years later the ambition was achieved.

The women prayed for rain while the men fought the forest fires which surrounded the little town of South Porcupine, Ontario, and a heavy deluge came when hope was gone. The townsmen had battled fierce fires on all sides of the village for three days without effect.

Truck gardening as a means of livelihood is being followed in France by a number of former Russian nobles and princes who have fled there for safety.

The temperature of the grain fields in Saskatchewan and Alberta at this time of year not infrequently rises from several degrees below freezing at night to 106 degrees in the sun without damaging the crops.

Laughter and how man first came to smile is one of the subjects of discussion at the annual meeting of Britain's leading scientific organization.

Ignace Paderewski says that the renown of the Polish Army of the past was based chiefly on its cavalry. Now, without horses, which were taken by the Germans and the Austrians, it has not been able to do itself justice. The Bolshevik troops had an enormous number of horses from the Cossack territories and the steppes.

The term "wood naphtha" instead of "wood alcohol" has been proposed by chemists to prevent persons from drinking it in mistake for ordinary alcohol.

The army is having difficulty in getting officers for the enlarged forces. The examinations are difficult, particularly in mathematics.

The navy is beginning to sink wells in a search for oil in the navy reserve lands of California. The oil will be used as fuel for the ships.

Wives of the officers in charge of American-owned merchant ships may accompany their husbands on voyages, Admiral Benson has ruled.

Texas is going to build a state owned and managed cement plant. A shortage in cement has been felt for a long time, and private interests did not catch up with the demand.

Under a Federal ruling the process of unscrambling the meat packing industry has been begun by separating the stockyards from the packing houses. The Department of Justice is directing the operation.

It is reported that a stock company is being formed and the stock sold in many countries, for the purpose of putting back on the throne King Constantine, the deposed ruler of Greece.

The population of Eastland, Texas, increased 995.7 per cent between 1910 and 1920. The town is in the heart of the oil fields.

Chile has begun a campaign against anarchists and has arrested 40 men and women who it is claimed are backed by Peruvian agents.

A passenger air service between Copenhagen and Berlin has been inaugurated. Passengers change at Warnemunde.

W. Averill Harriman, son of E. H. Harriman, the railroad magnate, is beginning to outshine his father's record as a financier. He heads the new merger of American and German steamship interests which belts the world.

Bahama Island fishermen have been destroying the flamingo with so much abandon that the British Government has taken action to save the long-necked birds.

The harvest fields of the West are attracting women, who get \$4 to \$6 a day with meals and lodging.

In Plainview, Texas, fresh eggs bring the poultry man 25 cents a dozen. Less than 300 miles away, in El Paso, the same eggs sell for 75 cents a dozen.

A Norwegian woman, Augustina Osen, who attended the Third Internationale, in Moscow, was killed in an airplane accident while preparing to start her flight back to Norway.

More than 300 American Boy Scouts are visiting the battlefields and cemeteries of France and Belgium after their "jamboree" in England.

Speaking of world peace, there are wars in Morocco, Poland, Mesopotamia, Ireland, Fiume, Albania, Persia, Arabia and many other places where bayonet self-determination is being doled out.

In accordance with the Peace Treaty the Germans are demolishing the fortifications around Mayence, now occupied as headquarters by the French Army of Occupation.

Marshal Foch told members of a Knights of Columbus delegation that he would visit the United States in the near future, provided the military situation in Europe quieted down.

Bakers in Spain have been arrested in large numbers in the government fight against profiteering in bread.

The French Academy of Science has announced that the rocking-chair is the most healthful seating apparatus, and advises the discontinuance of the manufacture of other kinds.

As a memorial to General Gorgas, who cleaned up the disease conditions in the Panama Canal Zone, it is planned to erect in Panama an institute for the study of tropical diseases.

The Twelfth Esperanto Congress has begun at The Hague. Among the 400 delegates are representatives of the Italian, Spanish, Bulgarian and Dutch governments and delegates from the League of Nations.

Bankruptcy is increasing rapidly in Berlin. Meanwhile Hamburg, assured of continued and increasing shipping trade, is beginning to feel pre-war prosperity.

The government has warned the people to look for the orange in their orange drinks. Many of the drinks are just sugar and water with a dash of color, says Washington.

Because the municipal authorities cut down the number of bulls per bullfight in Spain recently, the fans went on a strike and broke up the bull pen.

Postage stamps made by the United States Government are handled by machinery, and do not touch a human hand until ready for purchase by the consumer. Then there are machines to moisten and press the stamps.

Idaho has several mountains, each more than 12,000 feet high, that have never been named.

Sir Hugh John Macdonald, in the Winnipeg police court, recently ruled that to feed a live chicken to a boa constrictor did not constitute cruelty to animals.

The housing shortage and the scarcity of labor seem to worry the editors very much, but in spite of it all Ellis Island keeps sending about 5,000 new Americans into the country each day.

Chile has added to her navy four ships purchased from England. The "balance of power" in South America is said to be somewhat unbalanced as a result and Brazil, Argentine, Peru and others are reported to be getting ready to help along world peace by adding a few ships to their fleets.

Mutt, Jeff, Doc, Carl and Carnot, the last of Manhattan's fire horses on duty, lost their jobs last week when a motor engine arrived. Every fire engine in Manhattan now is motor drawn, and of the 304 engine companies in Greater New York 243 are now motorized.

By presidential proclamation Guatemala has gone "dry" and the reports so far indicate that the people are adjusting themselves to the no-percent life very rapidly and with no casualties.

Sixty Bolsheviks are to be tried in Hungary soon. The Soviet minister has advised Hungary that the 1,000 Hungarian officers, prisoners in Russia, will be held as hostages and will receive the same punishment given the Hungarian Bolsheviks.

Paris will name one of its streets or boulevards "November 11" in commemoration of the date of the armistice which ended the World War.

A record price for mutton was reached in Australia when a yearling stud ram sold for 3,600 guineas, approximately \$18,000.

Southern Saskatchewan is preparing to utilize thousands of tons of waste straw in the manufacture of paper.

The District of Columbia Supreme Court has overruled Postmaster-General Burleson and allowed the New York *Call*, Socialist newspaper, use of the mails. The court held that the postmaster had no authority to judge what news or editorial matter might appear in future editions, even though one or a number of published articles had been adjudged seditious.

A Chicago prohibition official claims that whisky is being sent from Canada into the United States by the use of torpedoes.

The "killed in action" column of the London *Times*, a fixture of the World War days but discontinued some time ago, has been resumed, owing to the heavy fighting in Arabia and Mesopotamia.

Carl Mays, New York American League pitcher, whose pitched ball killed Ray Chapman, Cleveland shortstop, won the first game after the accident, defeating the Detroit team, 10 to 0.

Senator Harding will have to attend the Ohio State fair, at Columbus, in person if he wishes to address the crowd there, the committee having rejected a plan to use "canned" speeches of the Republican presidential candidate.

Ty Cobb and Hugh Jennings, of the Detroit baseballers, have come out in support of Governor Cox for President. The Harding committee is said to be on Babe Ruth's trail for his support, but the Babe comes from Baltimore, and it looks doubtful.

The Sing Sing *Bulletin*, convict newspaper, recently suspended by the prison authorities of New York, will resume publication. There was some objection to the fact that a murderer was editor of the paper, but he will keep his job, and the paper will start on its twenty-second year.

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